March 9, 2004

TO: NITC Commissioners

FROM: Rick Becker

SUBJECT: **State Government Council - E-mail Update**

1. Work Group Report and Recommendations to the State Government Council

The State Government Council created a work group to review the existing e-mail standard for state government and recommend possible changes. The work group has prepared a draft report, entitled *A Unified E-mail System for Nebraska State Government: Recommendations for a Revised E-mail Standard,* which was presented to the State Government Council at their February meeting.

The report identified six goals for the revised e-mail standard:

1. Provide for secure e-mail communications within state government.
2. Provide for regular, server-based backup of all state government e-mail, and assure that business recovery is possible.
3. Allow for gateway-based blocking of viruses and Spam.
4. Provide a unified e-mail directory for all state employees that provides information about the security of sending intra-agency e-mail communications.
5. Revise the standard to only include vendor-supported software.
6. Provide a low cost e-mail alternative.

The work group recommended a revised standard to include Lotus Notes and a new low-cost "Basic E-mail" system. The recommended approach addressed all six of the goals and would result in a unified e-mail system for state government. Agencies would be able to choose between a business-class e-mail, Lotus Notes, and a low-cost alternative, Basic E-mail. Through infrastructure design, this system would provide for secure communications within state government; server-based backups; blocking of viruses and Spam; and an improved directory.

The report is posted at:
http://www.nitc.state.ne.us/sgc/meetings/documents/20040212/emwg_draft_report_20040210.pdf

2. Next Steps

- Revised E-mail Standard to the State Government Council and Technical Panel - April 2004
- Comment period - April and May 2004
- Implementation Plan and Timeline to the State Government Council - April 2004
- Technical Panel Recommendation - May 2004
- Revised E-mail Standard for NITC Approval - June 2004